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March 1, 2005

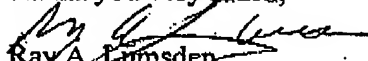
Attention: Mr. Dave Scherbel  
Examiner supervisor  
U.S. Patent Office

Dear Mr. Scherbel,

I would like to find out the status of a patent (last correspondence attached). I have called all the phone numbers listed, and found none are in working order. I submitted a written response to the first action and it was received at PTO on 12-23-04.

I would very much appreciate an update on my patent application status. You may fax me at 770-748-7849 or call me at 770-749-0283.

Thank you very much,

  
Ray A. Lumsden  
2839 Rome Highway  
Cedartown, GA 30125-4415

FAX CONTAINS 5 TOTAL PAGES

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/781,435

Applicant(s)

LUMSDEN, RAY ALLEN

Examiner

Thach H Bui

Art Unit

3752

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-848)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clarke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,667,113) in view of Bryant (U.S. Patent No. 4,856,299).

Clarke et al. teach a fuel distributing apparatus comprises a fuel dispensing nozzle (134). Clarke et al. failed to teach a static absorbing material formed in a manner to conform to the shape of the handle of the fuel dispensing nozzle. Bryant teaches a knitted fabric having improved electrical charge dissipation (static absorbing, antistatic material), absorption and stain resistance (abstract) (see entire patent). It would have been obvious to one skilled artisan in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a knitted fabric having improved electrical charge dissipation (static absorbing, antistatic material), absorption and stain resistance conformed to the shape of the handle to eliminate static electricity.

2. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over both Clarke et al. and Bryant and further in view of Slusher (U.S. Patent No. 6,725,590).

Clarke et al. and Bryant have all the features of the invention but both failed to teach an adhesive strip. Slusher teaches an adhesive strip and/or two-sided adhesive strip (28, 34, 36, 30a and 32a) (see Fig. 9). It would have been obvious to one skilled

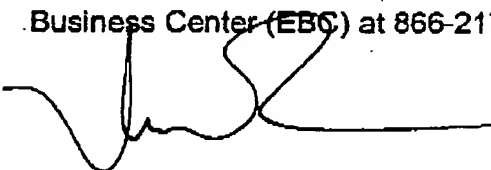
artisan in the art to have an adhesive strip and/or two-sided adhesive strip to form the knitted fabric to a semicircular tube to fit onto the handle of the fuel dispensing nozzle.

### **Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thach H Bui whose telephone number is 703-305-0063 and/or 571-272-4898. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on 703-308-1272. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



T.B.  
1/01/2004

# **Notice of References Cited**

Application/Control No.

10/781,435

Applicant(s)/Patent Under  
Reexamination  
LUMSDEN, RAY ALLEN

Examiner

Thach H Bui

Art Unit

3752

Page 1 of 1

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
A		US-5,667,113	09-1997	Clarke et al.	222/608
B		US-4,856,299	08-1989	Bryant, Kenneth G.	68/202
C		US-6,725,590	04-2004	Slusher, Mike	40/590
D		US-			
E		US-			
F		US-			
G		US-			
H		US-			
I		US-			
J		US-			
K		US-			
L		US-			
M		US-			

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
N						
O						
P						
Q						
R						
S						
T						

## **NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
U		
V		
W		
X		

\*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(e).)  
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
PTO-892 (Rev. 01-2001)

Notice of References Cited

Part of Paper No. 11012004